

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A character string data processing method for passing a first character string from a first object, through an interface object running under control of a computer operating system, to a second object when an application program is run, the method comprising:

casting, in the interface object, the first character string data as basic string data whereby a number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable irrespective of a declared type of the first character string data of the first object, detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string data as a basic string, and converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to character string data that can be passed by the operating system without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format; and

processing, in the second object, the first character string data as basic string data irrespective of the declared type of the first character string data.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic string data is string data containing string length information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein

the application program can process character string data containing null data;

the first object is the application program or a peripheral device class control object; and

the second object is a peripheral device class control object or a peripheral device service object.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the character string data is bar code data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the application program is a POS application program.

6. (Currently Amended) A character string data processing system comprising a first object that is a client, a second object that is a server with respect to the first object, and an interface object for passing a first character string from the first object, through the interface object, to the second object running an application program, wherein:

the interface object comprises means for casting the first character string data as basic string data whereby the number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable irrespective of a declared type of the first character string data of the first object, means for detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string as a basic string, and means for converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to character string data that can be passed by the operating system without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format; and

the second object comprises means for processing the first character string data as basic string data irrespective of the declared type of the first character string data.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the basic string data is string data containing string length information.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein

the application program can process character string data containing null data;

the first object is the application program or a peripheral device class control object; and

the second object is a peripheral device class control object or a peripheral device service object.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the character string data is bar code data.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the application program is a POS application program.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an object program that is a client object when an application program is run, the object program comprising:

instructions for passing first character string data to a server object relative to the client object by invoking an interface object capable of passing the first character string data through an operating system to the server object; and

wherein the passing instruction has an executable command for running a process invoking the interface object to cast the first character string data as basic string data whereby the number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable irrespective of an object-declared type of the first character string data, the passing instruction further having instructions for detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string as a basic string, and converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to character string data that can be passed by the operating system without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the object program is an application program capable of processing character string data containing null data, or a peripheral device class control object.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the character string data is bar code data, and the application program is a POS application program.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an object program that is a server object when running an application program, the object program comprising:

an executable command for processing first character string data passed to the server object from a client object thereof through an interface object running on an operating system as basic string data whereby the number of

characters including null data in a middle portion of the character string data is countable irrespective of an object-declared type of the first character string data.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the object program is a peripheral device class control object, or a peripheral device service object.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the character string data is bar code data, and the application program is a POS application program.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an interface object program for passing a first character string through a computer operating system from a client or first object to a server or second object when an application program is run, the interface object program comprising:

an executable command for casting the first character string data as basic string data whereby a number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable irrespective of a declared type of the first character string data of the first object, detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string as a basic string, and converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to character string data that can be passed by the operating system without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the basic string data is string data containing string length information.